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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

STATINTL

Spanel Pushed by Dodd as Envoy

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

Of all the peculiar projects of Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) one of the strangest was his promotion of A. N. Spanel of International Latex for an ambassadorship.

Spanel founded the International Latex Corp., which manufactures ladies' undergarments. He likes to advertise by running paid editorials in the Nation's leading newspapers in the form of editorial advice on foreign affairs. His editorial-ads frequently deal with France, and ever since France made him a member of the Legion of Honor, Spanel has hankered to be U.S. Ambassador to France.

To this end, Abe sought the support of Sen. Dodd, who nominated Lyndon B. Johnson for President in 1960 and boasts of his White House connections.

Spanel started shelling out contributions to Dodd early in 1964—first, \$650 to his Senate campaign, then \$1500 to the Citizens Committee for Dodd. The latest and largest donation was \$10,000.

Dodd's office records show a telephone call from Irving Ferman, International Latex's Washington representative, Oct. 15, 1964. He left the fol-

lowing message: "Would like to see you Monday morning for a very few minutes. Very important."

Staff members learned later, they told us, that Ferman had offered Dodd a \$1,000 contribution if he would use his influence with President Johnson to get Spanel an ambassadorship.

Ferman showed up in Dodd's office with the money at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 8.

The following month Spanel sent the Senator a memorandum to be submitted to the White House suggesting how President Johnson ought to handle President de Gaulle.

Dodd dictated a letter to the President on Jan. 27, 1965, which was supposed to accompany the memorandum.

"The attached memorandum was given to me by my friend, A. N. Spanel, the president of International Latex Corporation," said Dodd. "As you know, he has a long association with, and experiences in France, and I have found his sources of information to be truly remarkable."

But, the last minute, Dodd had a change of heart and didn't mail the letter. He continued, however, to push Spanel for an ambassadorship. In February, he requested a biographical sketch of Spanel's wife, Margaret, to ac-

company the recommendation.

Bras for Office Staff

At one point, Spanel directed Ferman to request the bust measurements of all the girls in Dodd's office, then sent each one a deluxe bra.

Despite the \$12,150 in contributions and the bras, however, Spanel still isn't an ambassador.

We questioned Ferman about the \$10,000 he delivered to Dodd's office.

"A. N. made the contribution because he likes Dodd," was Ferman's explanation.

He acknowledged that Spanel had sought Dodd's support for an ambassadorship, but denied that any money had been paid to get it.

"There was no deal," insisted Ferman. "That money was not given in return for an ambassadorship. If I felt that \$10,000 could buy an ambassadorship, I don't deserve to be in Washington."

He claimed it was merely a campaign contribution.

"But the money wasn't delivered until after the election," it was pointed out.

"It was committed during the campaign," said Ferman.

Spanel denied to us that he had any knowledge of a \$10,000 contribution. He acknowledged only the \$2150 that was donated in his name during the 1964 campaign. He also declared that he had not

sought an ambassadorship.

Then he called in Ferman to back up his story. In this second interview, Ferman supported Spanel's claim that he had never sought an ambassadorship. Ferman said that he, on his own, had brought up the idea with Dodd.

Ferman also claimed that Spanel knew nothing of the postelection contribution. After refreshing his memory, Ferman said, he recalled that only \$8000 had been delivered to Dodd in cash. He also claimed that his office records showed this was handed to the Senator on Feb. 8, 1965, not Dec. 8, 1964.

In addition to the \$8000, which Ferman said was contributed by various unnamed individuals, he acknowledged that he had given Dodd an additional \$1500 during the campaign. This was in addition to the \$2150 reported in Spanel's name. The \$8000 cash contribution is not listed on the official reports.

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